

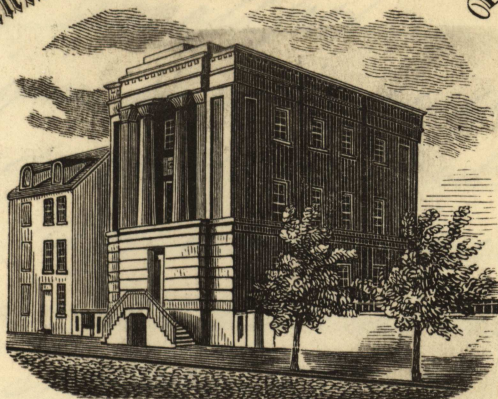


THESIS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

*of the*

*Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania,*



FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

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*Philadelphia, February 1<sup>st</sup> 1862*



1  
darkness. It is supposed to have  
been introduced into Europe,  
early in the middle ages, from  
Asia, in sections of which, it  
has prevailed from time immemorial,  
but we have no proof in  
regard to the time and whether  
the ancient

Variola,

or

Smallpox.

The origin of this disease is  
entangled in somewhat of a  
mystery, different opinions pre-  
vailing as to the time and place  
of its first appearance.

The error of early writers, in  
dating its existence to a period  
which they could not substantiate,  
has given the present generation  
less light upon the subject  
and veiled it in still deeper



darkness. It is supposed to have been introduced into Europe, early in the middle ages, from Asia, in sections of which, it has prevailed from time immemorial; but we have no positive proof in regard to the matter and whether the ancients were acquainted with the disease, in any of its forms, will ever remain a point of argument.

It has now lost much of its former importance; and is looked upon with less fear since the discovery of vaccination, which, has proved itself, (by quelling the ravage of this disease) to be one of the greatest discoveries known in medical science.



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By Vaccination, we understand the act of communicating the disease by the introduction of the vaccine virus into the skin; the word is derived from, Vacca, cow; a disease having appeared in that animal termed cowpox, capable of being transferred to man and in a great measure securing him against smallpox; this fact, no doubt, was recognised some time ago and was resorted to, in a measure, in different parts of the globe, as India, Persia and South America; it was on account of experiments made by Dr. Jenner, when inoculating for smallpox in Gloucestershire, England, that



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we owe the promulgation of this  
property of the vaccine virus,  
which is not now as formerly  
taken from the cow, experience  
having clearly shown that it is  
nearly as powerful when obtained  
from the human vesicle. In some  
instances Smallpox occurs after  
vaccination, but it is so modified,  
that it is termed Varioloid, yet  
in fact it is only Smallpox  
divested of its terrors and happens  
less frequently after vaccination  
than inoculation. ~~the contrary~~  
Vaccination is now practised  
in nearly all parts of the  
world, while inoculation,  
once thought a happy dis-  
covery, is rarely if ever prac-



3  
tised and is considered a barbarity, for, although it modifies the disease, it renders the person inoculated, liable to spread, the contagion thus artificially produced and makes him the centre of a contagious influence.

Though inoculation produces a mild form of Smallpox, it sometimes proves fatal, which adds another serious objection to its practice.

Vaccination on the contrary, is not contagious and the individual vaccinated, moves in society the same as previous to the operation.

For how long a time this may



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prevent smallpox is not fully known, the effects varying in different individuals; the shortest period is about five years, but to have the greatest security, revaccination is occasionally necessary.

The cause of smallpox is contagion, it attacks all ages and classes, alike, that are not protected by vaccination; we frequently meet with persons who have mingled with it from time to time and not been affected, but still such cannot consider themselves safe, an attack often coming on in old age, which is very



likely to prove fatal.

The time, at which the disease is contagious, is supposed to commence about the seventh day and continue, as long as scabs remain upon the body; one attack in the generality of cases, protects the system against a second, but sometimes, a person is attacked a second time and we have cases on record, in which the same person was attacked the third time.

Variola, or Smallpox, is a contagious, eruptive disease, which is recognised, by a fever of three



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or four days duration, after which  
the eruption makes its appearance,  
passing through three different  
and distinct stages; first, pimple,  
then vesicle and then pustule,  
which is said to arrive at  
maturity in eight or nine  
days, but almost every case  
seems to be governed by laws  
of its own, in regard to the  
time, especially in a strumous  
diathesis, when we sometimes  
find it much over the time,  
before the pock is fully formed,  
one case in particular, that I  
attended, was fifteen days after  
the eruption first made its  
appearance before the pustule  
was fully formed, it remained,



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stationary without any change  
whatever for five days, desiccation  
then commenced and went on  
rapidly, it was thirty-one days  
before the scabs disappeared  
from the body and then they  
had just commenced leaving  
the face; the patient was a young  
lady aged eighteen and of a  
decidedly scrofulous habit.

We generally recognise two  
varieties of this disease, the  
discreet or distinct, when the  
pustules on the face are well  
defined, or isolated, as it were,  
and do not run into one another,  
but still so close together, some-  
times, that we cannot place the  
point of a pin between them,



the fever in this variety is inflammatory throughout, which ceases when the eruption is fully complete:

And the confluent, when the pustules are more or less united, forming a complete mask over the face, in this variety we have a fever of a typhoid character.

All cases of regular smallpox have three stages, first, the introductory, or eruptive fever, second, the progress, or maturation of the eruption, third, the decline.

The first stage of distinct smallpox, commences with a sense of chilliness over the whole body



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lasting from half an hour to two  
or three hours; after this has  
passed off we have a hot skin,  
flushed face, frequent pulse,  
yellowish, fevered tongue, thirst  
for cold drinks, nausea and vom-  
iting is sometimes, but not always  
present in this stage, cephalalgia,  
pain in the back about the lumbar  
region, with general weakness,  
as if from a heavy cold, sore  
throat and sometimes delirium;  
in children we often have convul-  
sions, wakefulness and great  
restlessness and difficult  
respiration; this state of affairs  
generally continues for three or  
four days, when the eruption  
makes its appearance and the



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Patient will often say he feels better.  
The eruption at first, is so slight  
that it can hardly be observed, this  
soon turns to bright red specks;  
they first make their appearance  
on the face, then on the neck and  
arms and at last upon the lower  
extremities.

Sometimes the eruption appears  
over the whole body at once, the  
prognosis, in such cases, is very  
unfavourable.

This stage of smallpox offers no  
symptoms by which it can be dis-  
tinguished, for a certainty, from  
other eruptive fevers, unless the  
disease was prevalent at the  
time, but still when we have the  
agonizing lumbar pains and



the intolerable sickness of the stomach, with all due respect to these two leading symptoms, we would be called upon to think of smallpox.

The second stage, may be considered as commencing when the eruption is fully out, the small, bright red specks of the first stage, now become decidedly papular and about the second day, lymph may be seen at the apex of each one of these little pimples; in about two more days the pocks are well formed, we find now a slight depression in the centre of each, at the base the skin becomes red and inflamed, they continue increasing



in size, the third change taking place of vesicle to pustule, this is called the maturation period; they now contain pus, (sometimes we find them quite transparent and watery in appearance) after a while the depression in the centre disappears and they become quite round on the top; in the change of the vesicle to the pustule there is always more or less swelling of the skin, more upon the face however, than any other part, the feet and hands, are also swollen very much; at this time we have a horrible stench sent forth from the patient's body, I cannot say what this odor is like, in fact, it is unlike any-



thing I know of, but it can easily be recognised by one familiar with the disease, it generally lingers about the patient three or four days. About the eleventh or twelfth day the third stage sets in, in which the pustules commence drying up, this is called the period of desiccation, which goes rapidly on, commencing on the face first; the swelling of the face now subsides and the dry scabs commence falling off about the fourteenth day, but the eruption on the extremities is not yet fully out, so that four or five days later we have the scabs formed on the hands and feet, the fever is now on the mend, the appetite returns



and by the time the scabs have all fallen off, health is restored.

Confluent smallpox. This is the same disease, but in a more aggravated form; it is known by the pustules running together, forming one continuous whole, the face being the part from which we form our diagnosis. The symptoms are all aggravated, to an alarming extent, the eruptive fever is more violent, the lumbar pains are more intense, the convulsions, delirium, stupor and sickness of the stomach, are all, heightened to an alarming degree; in this state, death may take place before the eruption makes



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its appearance, which generally comes on, about a day sooner than in the distinct variety; it is always found thickest on the face, in some cases it is so bad, that not a portion of the healthy skin can be seen; in this variety the pocks do not rise up so nicely, as in the distinct, but are generally quite flat and have the appearance, some thing, as if a bladder was stretched over the face with water under it, there is more eruption internally in this variety, the mouth and throat are often lined, I have seen a dozen, or more, on the tongue; the swelling of the skin is much greater, more particularly



the face <sup>and</sup> scalp, so bad is it that the eyes are closed, the nose enlarged to twice its natural size, the cheeks puffed out and the lips enormously swollen; all this with the horrible odor that is passing off from the patient, makes it one of the most disgusting sights that we could be called upon to witness.

About the eighth or ninth day the fever, which has never left the patient, sets in with renewed vigor and if he is of a strong constitution he may recover, but on the contrary, if he has been in bad health before the attack the debilitating effects of it would be very likely to bring



on all the symptoms of the low form of typhus, in which state death is very apt to close the scene; But if he passes through this stage, to that of desiccation, he is still in very great danger, but should this not prove fatal, convalescence at length comes on slowly and the scabs commence falling off.

We have another variety of small-pox, denominated malignant, in consequence of its very poisonous nature; it is also termed

Black Small-pox, from the extravasation of blood; this variety is always accompanied with great danger.



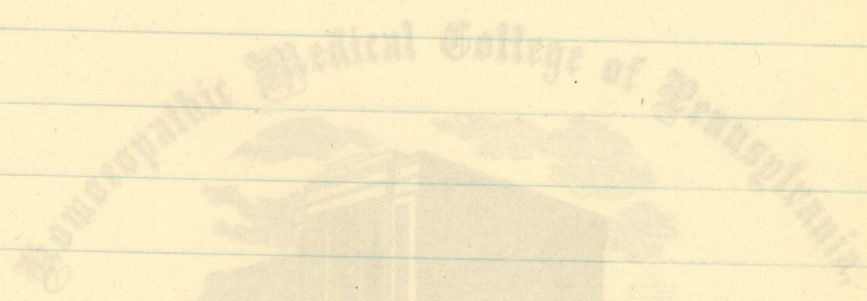
For the treatment of Smallpox we have the following remedies—  
 Acon., Cham., Bella., Spec., Tart., Bryo.,  
 Rhus. Tox. Puls. Stram. Sulph. Mercu.  
 Arsen., Hepar S., and others; it is  
 needless for me to mention the  
 indications for these separately,  
 as they are quite familiar to all;  
 but in regard to two that I have  
 not specified, (Variolinum and  
 Vaccininae), I desire to call more  
 especial attention. In the minds  
 of many of our very best Hom-  
 oopathic physicians, these two  
 remedies are regarded as worthless,  
 but, if I might be allowed to state  
 my experience respecting them,  
 I should say, that I have wit-  
 nessed the most advantageous



results from their use, and have watched their effects in eight cases, in which I administered them and found the recovery more speedy and not a mark or pit visible; while in seven cases that did not take these remedies, recovery was slow and the patient miserably marked. My plan has been, to give on the seventh day of the eruption, three powders of Variolinum and three of Vaccinine of the second preparation, a powder every two hours, after which, I generally prescribe Mercu. V., which assists the process of desiccation; I think this method worthy of more special attention by the Homoeopathic,



Profession and feel confident  
 that it will, if practised, prove  
 more conclusively, (if possible),  
 the efficacy of the invaluable  
 law *Similia similibus curantur*.



The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

Franklin College of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, February 10 1862